U.L.F.A.

723 SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to initiate any dialogue with ULFA and other similar organisations of the NE region;

(b) whether any specific steps have been taken in this direction and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (c) The Government of India believes in solution of problems through talks and negotiations to bring about peace, stability and development. The Government of India is prepared for talks with any group which is willing to work within the framework of the Constitution of India and abjure violence. No talks have been initiated with ULFA or other similar organisations of the NE region, as they have not, as of now, indicated their willingness for talks within the above parameters and are continuing with violence. The Government of India categorically rejects violence as a means of achieving any objective.

Train from Trivandrum

724 SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have received any representation for the introduction of new Express train from Trivandrum (*via*) Alleppey, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Demands for new express trains from Trivandrum via Alleppey include Trivandrum-Guruvayour Intercity Express and express train from Trivandrum to New Delhi and Jaipur.

Shatabdi Express

725 SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to introduce two trains from New Jalpaiguri and Calcutta in morning and back in the evening in both the directions, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Arms Dropping

726 DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the dates on which the Ministry of first got the hint from RAW about the probable arms drop in India by a small aircraft from Karachi and the date on which the arms were dropped in Purulia;

(b) the dates on which the erring officials were first suspended for their lapses and the final action taken against them and

(c) the present position of the inquiry conducted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) The R&AW's U.O. Note dated 25.11.1995 indicated of a plan of landing of a small aircraft in Dhanbad area of Bihar for delivering arms consignment in that area. The arms consignment was airdropped on the night of 17/18th December, 1995 in Purulia District of West Bengal.

(b) and (c) The Central Bureau of Investigation which has been entrusted with the investigation of this case has submitted reports highlighting certain administrative lapses on the part of different agencies that came to light during the investigation. The concerned authorities have been apprised of the reports of the CBI for appropriate action.

Loco and Carriage Factories at Ajmer

727 PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the progress made so far to convert the oldest and the largest Loco and Carriage factories located at Ajmer according to the requirements of Broad gauge lines;

(b) the total expenditure incurred on each of these two factories for this purpose;

(c) the time by which the work on these two factories is likely to be completed and estimated capacity of these two factories thereafter, and;

(d) the measures taken to ensure smooth running of these factories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Conversion of Carriage Works at Ajmer is a sanctioned work. 25% physical progress has already been made and Periodic Overhaul (POH) of BG coaches in this workshop has also commenced. BG AC coach POH facilities are also being planned in this workshop during the current year. Loco works at Ajmer is also being planned to be converted to undertake POH of BG wagons.